

## A CHILD-LIKE FAITH.

G. A. RUFF.

Child-like resembles a child, or that which belongs to children, becoming a child, meek, submissive, dutiful, as *child-like* obedience, faith.

1. Belief, the assent of the mind or understanding to the truth.
2. Belief or probable evidence of any kind.
3. Simple belief of the scriptures.
4. Firm belief of God's testimonies of the truths of the Gospel.
5. Believing in doctrine or system of doctrines.
6. Faith in the promises of God.
7. Open profession of Gospel truth.
8. A persuasion of belief of the lawfulness of things indifferent.
9. Fidelity, a strict adherence to duty and fulfillment of promises.
10. Word or honor, pledge by promise given.
11. Sincerity, honesty, veracity.
12. Credibility.

Oh, that I had the faith, the trust, the happiness of my childhood days. Such is the wish and the cry of many a man and woman worn by worldly cares and anxieties. Once there was peace and implicit faith in all that we were taught by an affectionate mother or kind father. Now I am distracted with thoughts about God, the Bible, immortality, and a thousand other questions. Is there a God? Where is he? Who is he? What does he require of me? Is the Bible so full of apparent contradictions and mysteries the word of God? Is there a life after death? Shall we meet and know those near and dear to us? Why all this evil, this suffering, this temptation, this disappointment? These questions start up unbid in every thoughtful mind, give us at times great distress, and we wish we were happy children again, with no such thoughts and cares to vex us. Vain is the hope, however. We cannot turn back. The faith, trust, happiness and innocence of childhood were born of our ignorance. Now we are thinking and reasoning men and women, and there is no way of relief but in a wise, reverent and experimental faith. It is useless to cry out for a faith that closes its eyes to facts that meet us on every hand. And yet there is a faith, a trust, an innocence, and so a peace born of wisdom and enlightened reason, into which the Lord will certainly, sooner or later in the next life if not in this, lead every one who seeks to know his will and truth.

This is a world and life of trial, conflict, work, disappointment and doubt. Let no one delude himself with the notion

that we shall ever find a place or state in this life wholly free from care, perplexity or uncertainty. These things are for our good, to break down our selfishness, and worldliness, and self-derived intelligence, and lead us to look to him who is the only source and giver of true wisdom, peace and innocence. "If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth to all men abundantly."

We must begin with the truth that the evils forbidden in the ten commandments as blasphemy, theft, murder, false witness, covetousness are sins before God and heaven, and we must avoid them as such in desire, thought and act. We must look to the Lord daily, yea, every moment for help and guidance to be faithful to our trust and duties whatever our lot or condition among men. If we do this we shall gradually be led out of our Egyptian darkness, doubts and anxieties into the clear light of faith, reason and experience. We shall see that all things work together for our good and eternal happiness. We shall perceive that no evil or suffering happens, but prevents a worse evil or suffering. We shall learn that the Bible is a sure guide in the way to God, heaven and a regenerate spiritual life. We shall realize and believe that however hard and disappointing our experience here, that peace, light, and unending happiness await us hereafter. Let us then be wise, yet humble and obedient men and women, that we may become the Lord's children, and receive from him again the faith, peace and innocence of childhood.

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## A CALL TO DO SOMETHING.

M. M. D.

I desire to do *something* for Christ. What that something is, God must decide. It is not for us to choose this thing or that for our life work, and then ask God to give success, but we must first ask God what he would have us do and then when he tells us by the "wee small whisper we must be ready to go to work, knowing that he *will bless* that which we do.

There is nothing too small for God to make great. O, the unbounded resource of his mercy and blessing. What a peace fills ones heart when they know they have done that which the Lord asked them to do. If the something be only a word spoken for Jesus, if it be a victory over an ugly temper, a song for the King, or whatever it be, the person who does the *something* gets a blessing.

When the Spirit tells us something to do, we must not stop to think of the blessing then, but only to do the will of

the Father and after the kindness is done, the word spoken, the song been sung, the blessing always comes. Oh! why do we not listen more closely for the Spirit's voice? Let us now firmly resolve with God's help, never to do anything without knowing the will of the Master concerning the matter. He will tell us so plainly if we will but listen; and when once we hear his voice and obey the bidding the call comes so much louder and plainer the next time. In this matter of the Spirit's leading there never need be a doubt. Isn't God, maker of heaven and earth, ruler of the universe, isn't he able to tell us, whom he made in his own image, isn't he able to tell us that which he would have us to do? and tell us in such a way that we can *know*, without a doubt, *what* he desires? A very poor idea of God is this, that thinks it so difficult to know when the Spirit is calling. Didn't we know for a surety what he wanted when he said "Give me thine heart?" Of course we did. Just so surely will we know when he says—tell that person this, sing that song—or do this or do that.

Dear friend will always know when God has something for us to do, if we only let him tell us; and put ourselves all on the altar, that we may be ready to do the *something* that he bids us, *whatever* that may be. God help us.

## THE HOLY GHOST.

H. P. BRINKWORTH.

Of late we have been receiving some articles on the above subject prompting a few further thoughts on the personality of the Holy Ghost. First, the Holy Ghost is a person just as much as the Father or Son. We should never use the neuter pronoun in speaking of same. Notice closely our Lord refers to him *He, Him, Whom*. He has the attributes of power, holiness, goodness, love. Can these be predicted of other than a person? It is never said in Scripture the Spirit is God, or, the Spirit is the Lord, but always, "God is Spirit" and "The Lord is the Spirit." So that it is really the Spirit through whom God is the person that he is. It is in the Spirit that the personal life of God is centered; how, then, can he Himself be anything impersonal? Reflect, dear reader, one moment—the Holy Spirit loves you. Perhaps we think of the love of the Father and Son. Do we think of the love of the Holy Spirit? Read Romans 15:30. "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Read also Phil. 2:1, for